

Long Term Care NEWSLETTER

Indiana State Department of Health

**ISDH Long Term Care
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- Announcement of Pressure Ulcer Quality Improvement Initiative

Announcement of Pressure Ulcer Quality Improvement Initiative

The University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community and the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) are pleased to announce the Indiana Pressure Ulcer Quality Improvement Initiative. The ISDH is excited to have the University of Indianapolis coordinating this initiative. The Center for Aging & Community has assembled an outstanding team of experts and facilitators to assist participating facilities in this initiative. An overview of the initiative is provided below.

The initiative is open to all comprehensive care facilities (nursing homes). Approximately 100 facilities will be selected to participate in this initial initiative. Any facility wishing to participate must submit a Letter of Application. The priority deadline is August 8, 2008.

The ISDH is excited about this health care quality initiative. In October 2007, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) conducted a Leadership Conference on pressure ulcers attended by over 1,000 health care providers. The Conference included speakers from New Jersey who conducted a very successful New Jersey pressure ulcer reduction initiative. Since that conference, the ISDH has been working with our partners to plan a similar Indiana initiative. Our goal is a significant decrease in the number of pressure ulcers in Indiana health care facilities.

The University of Indianapolis and ISDH invite health care facilities to participate in this important health care quality initiative. A formal invitation will be mailed to all health facility administrators later this week.

Sincerely,

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Indiana State Department of Health



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CENTER FOR AGING & COMMUNITY

Indiana Health Care Quality Initiative Pressure Ulcer Quality Improvement Initiative OVERVIEW

July 21, 2008

Program Announcement

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community (CAC) are pleased to announce a statewide campaign addressing the health care issue of pressure ulcers. Pressure ulcers are a challenging and costly health care problem. For health care providers, pressure ulcers are difficult to prevent, assess, and treat. For residents and their families, pressure ulcers are a serious detriment to quality of life.

This 18-month collaborative initiative is designed to assist health care facilities implement improved pressure ulcer care practices and increase care coordination across the continuum of health care settings. Direct assistance will be provided to participating facilities and families by expert faculty. In recent years, states such as New Jersey and Minnesota have undertaken successful initiatives to reduce the number of pressure ulcers reported in their hospitals and long-term care facilities.

The Health Care Quality Initiative

In October 2007 the ISDH kicked off the Indiana Pressure Ulcer Quality Improvement Initiative with a Leadership Conference focusing on pressure ulcers. This Initiative is a three-phase initiative as follows:

- The October 2007 Leadership Conference focusing on pressure ulcers
- Purchase of a high-end pressure redistribution mattress and wheelchair cushions for every Indiana nursing home along with training on use of the mattress and cushions
- Implementation of a system-based approach to preventing and treating pressure ulcers to include nursing homes and other health care providers

ISDH selected the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community (CAC) to coordinate and lead the third phase of this initiative. CAC, which is one of Indiana's leading centers for aging studies, has a history of academic excellence along with experience leading system-wide collaborative efforts in health care and other arenas.

Benefits of Participation

- First and foremost, increased patient quality of life for Hoosiers
- Improved care coordination between hospitals, home health agencies, and long-term care facilities

- Educational opportunities for health care providers and caregivers
- Opportunity for improved quality of care through the prevention of pressure ulcers
- Opportunity for improved reputation within the community
- Opportunity to work with and learn from expert faculty
- Cost savings from fewer pressure ulcers requiring treatment

The Challenge

Pressure ulcers are a significant health care problem. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and ISDH have attempted over the years to track the problem and monitor pressure ulcer rates. CMS 2003 data indicated a 9.2% pressure ulcer rate in Indiana long term care facilities. Through the efforts of health care providers, that rate was reduced to 8.6% in October 2005. In 2005, CMS designated pressure ulcers as one of two priority goals for CMS Region V and directed the state quality improvement organizations to assist facilities in addressing the problem. As of September 30, 2007, Indiana's rate was down to 8.1%. A goal of this new Indiana initiative is to continue the progress in decreasing the rates towards the CMS goal of 7.4% with a future goal of 6.8%.

In January 2005, Governor Daniels issued an Executive Order for the development of a Medical Error Reporting System. One of the twenty-seven standards was the development of a stage 3 or stage 4 pressure ulcers while admitted to a hospital. In the Report for 2007, pressure ulcers were the top reportable event for hospitals. Of the 85 reported events, 26 events were the development of stage 3 or 4 pressure ulcers while admitted to a hospital. This initiative is directed at improving care coordination between facilities.

Methodology

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Breakthrough Series (BTS) Collaborative model will be used as the framework to reach the goal of reducing pressure ulcers in long term care facilities. A BTS Collaborative is short term - lasting for 12-15 months. It provides a hands-on, highly interactive education and training model that has a proven record for bringing about dramatic, lasting change. Clinical and medical experts in the assessment and treatment of pressure ulcers will provide the education and training, consultation and technical assistance throughout the initiative.

Participants

Approximately 100 nursing homes will be selected to participate in this initiative. If the initiative is successful, the ISDH anticipates renewing the program and offering additional nursing homes the opportunity to participate.

This initiative is voluntary. Facilities are not required to participate. It is open to any facility regardless of whether they have a high or low rate of pressure ulcers. While this initiative will require a time commitment by the participating facility, CAC and ISDH believe that the initiative will be highly beneficial in creating an atmosphere of health care quality improvement.

Requirements to participate

- Commit at least 3 staff to attend three one-day implementation meetings (tentatively planned for November 2008, March 2009 and July 2009) conducted regionally around the state for the convenience of the participants
- Willingness and enthusiasm to participate in the program. Facilities will be expected to conduct self-assessments; gather base-line and on-going data to measure impact of changes throughout the initiative; implement four key elements of the BTS model: process, improvement, testing cycles, and action; and involve all partners in ensuring education and care coordination.

Anticipated Activities Included in Initiative

This initiative will include many activities. The following are a few of the anticipated activities that will be included in the initiative:

- Participating facilities will receive a tool kit that includes assessment tools.
- Participating facilities will be provided onsite technical assistance in implementing the initiative.
- 3 one-day implementation meetings with expert faculty will be offered for representatives of participating facilities to discuss their experiences and identify solutions.
- Online education modules will be available to all Indiana nursing homes.
- A care coordination system will be implemented to improve care between facilities or providers.
- A consumer guide/brochure will be available to provide information on pressure ulcers along with two teleconferences for family and residents.

No Fee to Participate

There is no fee to participate in this initiative. Funding for this initiative is provided by ISDH.

Application Process

The following is the application process for this initiative:

- A facility submits a [Letter of Application](#) by August 8, 2008. Completed applications should be faxed to Lidia Dubicki at (317) 791-5945
- The facility participates in a telephone conference with Health Care Excel to answer questions about the initiative and the expectations for participants
- A review committee comprised of initiative partners will review all applications, select participants, and notify applicants of their participation status.

Partners in Collaborative

In addition to the ISDH and CAC, partners joining this effort include:

- Bottom-Line Performance
- Cabello Associates
- Health Care Excel
- Hoosier Owners and Providers for the Elderly
- Indiana Association for Home & Hospice Care
- Indiana Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
- Indiana Health Care Association
- Indiana Hospital Association
- Indiana Patient Safety Center
- Indiana University School of Medicine
- Pathways Health Services
- United Senior Action Foundation

For More Information

Please contact Jennifer Bachman, Project Director, at (317) 791-5936 or bachmanj@uindy.edu.

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